Penkovsky

Hoch memo 10/21/69 on Dr. Alexis H. Davison 10/30/69

CD87:569- Do we have Kelley's MT 12/9/63. If not, should we assume it contains nothing but the words from the notebook?

Wrong address- so typical of LHO. He'd put down what would be close should he go there, sometimes non-existing addresses, sometimes the wrong one, but close.

p. 1, last par: I wonder how typical it is of US embassies that the military supply the doctor who had the "duty to examine all persons coming to the USA", especially a doctor subsequently involved in an espionage scandal? The State Dept is not without funds for the normal operation of the embassies. Medical should qualify as normal.

P. 2, par 2: It is simply beyond belief that anyone in the US Moscow Embassy examined either a defecter or that rarity, the wife he was getting out of the USSR, without recollection of it. It is even less likely that Davison gave his mother's address to those he did not recall, especially an elderly, widowed mother. Security- conscious as everyone in the US government was in those days, the last thing anyone in the USEmb Moscow would be expected to do is fraternize with a genuine defector. His doing this marks him the biggest fool in the military or a man who knew what was not public. How could he expect a man so destitute the government was advancing the cost of his travel home, a man entirely without skill or trade, to be in Atlanta? It was not on any path to Texas, therefore, unless a fool, he must have had reason to expect Oswald might, on some occasion, be in the area, or this is a misrepresentation of what he said.

Nowhere in this report is Davison's address give, nor is the place of interview or manner (could it have been by phone, for example, as in other cases, where the realities had to be avoided, it was done?).

Rather interesting that Davison springs from people both of whom were part of what the USSR regards as invasuons of its territory. This, together with his assignment and the absence of any suggestion of his/his mother's political beliefs, suggests he would have little difficulty with the security check. But does it suggest the type of upbringing that would lead him to send to his mother a Russian his own files showed was a member of Komsommol and whose uncle was an NKD official?

The mother's illness qualifies as one of the more convenient ones.

CD235:2 Because she saw the FBI in a very few days. For what purpose? To write another On-The-Ball*Wall report, a repititious nothing, that her son had been embassy doctor and did examine those coming to the US. Harding is a surrogate Wall, as those of you who have done your own analysis of his reports or remember some of my writings may know. Example: interview with Bob Brown and other NSRP stuff, False Oswald materials; Cuban stuff. Only he uses more words than Wall.

CD337:4 is really exciting.! And magical. If the FBI was, as Paul notes, trying to "locate and interview" Davison in New York, having already interviewed him in Atlanta, it either had reason to believe he was in New York or really had other purposes that it hides. This report does not say Davison was temporarily available at 431 Riverside Drive; it gives that as his address. What a fascinating address, of "students attending Columbia University"! A doctor not taking an advance degree but regularly employed a thousand miles away? Som the FBI had as Davison's address what could not have been his address. Paul's are all possible explanations, but another is the typical FBI non-taking of notes in which the passing of information, verbally, through too many minds, got it switched, the possibility most likely being that he could be reached this address or the schoo

It is also possible to speculate that this address has some significance that got lost in the FBI shuffling. Looking for Davison at 431 Riverside is something like the non-reason for speaking to Guy Banister, 531 Lafayette, about the people with whom he presumeably had no connection at what is presented as a different address, 544 Camp St. It makes sense only if there is an invisible connection.

The two Captain Davisons, both at the same "advanced" school, after their educations are completed, that is, their professional educations, bracketed with the politics of their background, likewise is fascinating as it is confusing. Whichever one of the brothers (the language permits arguing either) went to the Russian Institute after he became a captain, is this also not fascinating? Why should a doctor, if only one was, go to a political institute and then accept a medical" assignment in the USSR? This is like asking Bartes if the Cuban orgabization created by the CIA was anti-Castro....Do not forget, there is no such thing as any military attache in any embassy, of any country, in any country, who does not have recognized intelligence functions. It is for this reason he exists. What is strange is the medical assignment of Alexis in Moscow.

If I were to make a guess, it would be that the FBI went to Columbia to get a rundown on what was really involved, not to "locate and interview" Alexis. But they did not dare make a record of their real purposes. They had to use a cover for their own records and from the Commission, whose lawyers should have seen through this transparency with no difficulty, if they had wanted to. This makes much more important and ever so much more likely to have significance that there was such an entry in LHO's notebook.

CD409:3 (they are carefully consigned to separate files by the ever-thoughtful FBI) focuses more attention on the two previous FBI futilities. Is it possible they didn't think to ask the mother where her son was? No. They didn't want to interview him. When they had to, they did, like they interviewed Sam Newman, not to report what he told them, that Banister, personally, arranged with him for the CRC space. Paul's observations are sound. To them may be added the existence of a medical bureau in every city, had the FBI any reason not to ask the mother or the Secret Service. The two children cannot be an accidental error in this report. Harding knew better, and so did Davison. It is entirely unlikely that Oswald said he didn't know where he was going but it would be in the south. The State Department even alerted the Texas HEW of Oswald's rights should he fail to recall or invoke them-before he left or at least before he arrived. It is unlikely that Davison knew nothing about the case, as it is unlikely that Harding or his associate Rose didn't know what the School Brigade, Ft. Benning, Ga., was really doing-or what Brown was and had been-or that he didn't ask Brown why he had been silent to the government and talkative to others. With Alexis permanently located in Atlanta, employed there, either he has a wife and family (and a phone) or he hasn't. This report avoids that, as it avoids his address which is anything but normal FBI practise. There must be a reason. I have already suggested the possibility he is a bachelor and may, in fact, live with the widowed mother. I suggest if Jim can he check the Atlanta phone books and city directories for the past and present. Can it be believed that he would remember this rare thing, that for the one and only time he gave his mother's address to strangers, but recall no real reason and nothing about them, not even what they looked like, when both were so exceptional, a defecting defector who had told that same embassy he was going to give away military secrets and then bargained over the (no prosecution) conditions of his return, and a Russian woman her government was permitting to leave the country? None of this is credible, particularly in a man whose assigned was intelligence, as all military attaches are, most of all in the USSR. I find the out-of-character editorializing at Paul's opening modest, more than justified, and believe this should be followed carefully and thoroughly. I have met Wise (the letter) and offer to be the one to speak to him. He is, I believe, in Washington. I also suggest that we first get all we think we will be able to....And I wonder whay they waited two months to go back to Davison for